

SPRING 2001

S&TS 362 Medicine and Health Care in American History

MWF 1:25 -2:15

115 Rockefeller Hall

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Course Description:

This course will examine the social history of American medicine, health care, and public health from the colonial era to the present. The focus of this course is on the United States, but the history of medical ideas, practitioners, and institutions in Europe and Canada serves as an important reference point for these discussions. Among the themes and issues to be discussed are: the evolution of the medical marketplace; the role of science in medical research and medical practice; popular understandings and experience of health and illness; alternative, complementary, and folk practitioners and practices; and the role of the state in the provision of health care.

Course Structure:

Two days a week will be devoted to lecture; on the third (usually Friday, but sometimes on other days—see the schedule that follows), the class will discuss issues raised by that week's reading. On lecture days, the readings will provide necessary background to the lecture. I will presume your familiarity with the assigned readings. On discussion days, we will examine the information and arguments presented in the assigned readings in greater depth.

Course Materials:

The following books (all paperback) will be available for purchase and on reserve at Uris:

- Janet Tighe and John Harley Warner, eds, Major Problems in the History of American Medicine and Public Health (Houghton-Mifflin, 2000)
- Judith Walzer Leavitt, Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public's Health (Beacon Press, 1996)
- Laurie Kaye Abraham, Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America (University of Chicago Press, 1993)

Most course readings will come from the Tighe and Warner reader (abbreviated T&W on the course schedule), which contains many short primary sources (historical documents) and brief scholarly analyses of these documents. With a few exceptions (Weeks 7 and 14), there are about 75-90 pages of assigned reading per week.

The course web page is at: <http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/sts362/index.html>

Evaluation:

Final grades will be based on the following:

- two short (2-3 page) response papers (15% each)..... 30%
- a midterm..... 30%
- a final exam 30%
- class participation 10%

Important Dates

Monday, February 12: First response paper due

Friday, March 9: Midterm

Monday, April 2: Second response paper due

Friday, May 18: Final exam

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SCHEDULE OF COURSE MEETINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EVENTS

L = class session will be mostly lecture D = class session will be mostly discussion

T&W = Tighe and Warner, eds., Major Problems...(the course’s primary text)

WEEK 1

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|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Monday, January 22</i> | <i>L: Course introduction</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, January 24</i> | <i>L: History, medicine, and medical history</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T&W Ch. 1 “What is the history of medicine and public health?” (Reverby and Rosner, Rosenberg, Patterson) |
| <i>Friday, January 26</i> | <i>D: The old world meets the new, biologically and medically</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From T&W, Ch. 2: du Pratz, Blackbird, and Calloway |

WEEK 2

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|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Monday, January 29</i> | <i>L: Smallpox in the colonies: A case-study in medical knowledge and public health policy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From T&W Ch. 2: Mather, Douglass, Hartford broadside, Boylston, Blake |
| <i>Wednesday, January 31</i> | <i>L: Everyday healers and their worlds</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class film viewing (excerpt): <i>A Midwife’s Tale</i> • From T&W Ch. 2: “Every Man His Own Doctor” |

Thurs Feb 1/Fri Feb 2

- From T&W Ch. 3: Ulrich, Drinker

D: Healers' experience and the experience of healing: the early medical marketplace

- From T&W Ch. 3: Washington's physicians, Rush, Rosner

WEEK 3

Monday, February 5

L: Knowledge systems and the medical marketplace: disease and therapeutics, pt. 1

- From T&W Ch. 3: South Carolina apprentice, Jackson and Warren, Channing, Ohio physician, Thomson
- From T&W Ch. 4: Rosenberg

Wednesday, February 7

L: Knowledge systems and the medical marketplace: disease and therapeutics, pt. 2

- From T&W Ch. 4: Bigelow, Indiana letter, Dix

Thurs Feb 8/Fri Feb 9

D: Pain, suffering, and distinctive bodies: anesthesia and anatomy in antebellum medical practice

- From T&W Ch. 4: Pernick, Savitt, Cartwright, Tennessee physician

WEEK 4

Monday, February 12

L: The good physician and the good patient

- **Response Paper 1 due at the beginning of class**

Wednesday, February 14

L: The medicine question and the woman question: Sectarian answers

- From T&W Ch. 5: Warner, county medical society, Nichols, Ware, hydropathists in the West

Thurs Feb 15/Fri Feb 16

D: Medicine and the woman question: Women physicians, orthodox male physicians, and the woman's body

- From T&W Ch. 5: Sanchez, the Blackwells, Clarke

WEEK 5

Monday, February 19

L: Sanitarians, cities, and the Civil War

- From T&W Ch. 6: Griscom, Cumming, Smith, NYC sanitary reformers, Hoy

Wednesday, February 21

L: When did (American) medicine become scientific? Germs, experiments, and attitudes

- From T&W Ch. 7: Warner, Bowditch, Blake, Bartholow, Cathell

Thurs Feb 22/Fri Feb 23

D: Professionals and the public's understanding of science: The germ theory as case study

- From T&W Ch. 7: Hansen, NYC newspaper campaign

WEEK 6

Monday, February 26

L: The New Public Health

- From T&W Ch. 8: Tomes, “the spitting habit,” Chapin, advertising campaign, Hunter, “the Modern Health Crusade”

Wednesday, February 28

L: Public health, race, and the nation: From Ellis Island to Angel Island

- From T&W Ch. 8: Kraut, Risse, Powderly, Hygeia

Thurs Mar 1/Fri Mar 2

D: Public health and professional power: “Typhoid Mary” as a case-study

- Leavitt, Typhoid Mary, Introduction and Ch. 1

WEEK 7

Monday, March 5

L: To market: Milk, medicine, and the boundaries between city and country

- Leavitt, Typhoid Mary, Chs. 2, 3, and 4

Wednesday, March 7

L: Typhoid Mary revisited: Was it right? Was it fair?

- Leavitt, Typhoid Mary, Chs. 5, 6, 7, and the brief epilogue

Friday, March 9

******MIDTERM**** (everyone meets during regular class time)**

WEEK 8

Monday, March 12

L: Medical education, nursing education, and the hospital, part 1: the purpose of reform

- From T&W Ch. 9: Ludmerer, Flexner, ACS statement, Goldmark

Wednesday, March 14

L: Medical education, nursing education, and the hospital, part 2: the practice of reform

- From T&W Ch. 9: Tighe, Vandervall

Thurs Mar 15/Fri Mar 16

D: The prestige of medicine and the realities of medical practice in a new age

- From T&W Ch. 9: Numbers, Rockefeller Foundation statement

WEEK 9

NO CLASS—Spring Break

WEEK 10

Monday, March 26

L: Fitter families? Motherhood, eugenics, and the law

- From T&W Ch. 10: Apple, advice to women readers, Army intelligence tests, Justice Holmes, Children's Bureau

Wednesday, March 28

L: Freud comes to America—or does he? Psychiatry and mental hygiene in the Jazz Age

- From T&W Ch.10: Lunbeck, medicalization of inebriety, Scott

Thurs Mar 29/Fri Mar 30

D: Technological possibilities and pitfalls: the cases of x-rays and twilight sleep

- From T&W Ch. 11: Howell, Leonard, “pulmotor,” Peabody, Leavitt, Armstrong

WEEK 11

Monday, April 2

L: Screening disease: the films

- In-class viewing of brief excerpts from mid century educational films

- **Response Paper 2 due at the beginning of class**

Wednesday, April 4

L: Screening disease, continued:

- From T&W Ch. 13: Lederer and Parascandola, deKruif and Parran

Thurs Apr 5/Fri Apr 6

D: The public image of medicine at mid-century

- View and discuss excerpt from *Sister Kenny*

WEEK 12

Monday, April 9

L: Health care for all? Mid-century questions about health care provision

- From T&W Ch. 13: MetLife ad, CCMC, Maverick, Truman, Devoto

Wednesday, April 11

L: Biomedical research under the scope: antibiotics and other scarce resources

- From T&W Ch. 12: Marks, Richards

Thurs Apr 12/Fri Apr 13

D: The meanings of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study

- From T&W Ch. 12: Lederer, Tuskegee documents, Nuremberg Code

WEEK 13

Monday, April 16

L: Wonder drugs and everyday expectations: the development of polio vaccines

- From T&W Ch. 13: Brandt, NFIP

Wednesday, April 18

L: Paying the price for high-tech medicine: Medicare, Medicaid, and the War on Cancer

- From T&W Ch. 14: Stevens, medical editor's lament, federal cmte report on NCI
- Medicare/Medicaid documents [provided by instructor]

Thurs Apr 19/Fri Apr 20

D: Advocacy, activism, and opting out: Patients and practitioners reckon with big biomedicine

- From T&W Ch. 14: Bix
- From T&W. Ch. 15: Boston Women's Health Collective, folk and alternative medicine in psychiatry, Aragon, Lorde

WEEK 14

Monday, April 23

L: The birth of bioethics: answering old moral questions and addressing new dilemmas

- From T&W Ch. 15: Rothman
- From T&W Ch. 11: Wailoo

Wednesday, April 25

L: New diseases and new definitions of health: From risk-factor epidemiology to AIDS and beyond

- From T&W Ch. 15: Brandt
- From T&W Ch. 14: Public health advocates on AIDS, Koop

Thurs Apr 26/Fri Apr 27

Health care, managed care, and reform, pt. 1

- In-class viewing: *Frontline* on managed care (1st half)
- Begin Abraham, Mama Might Be Better Off Dead

WEEK 15

Monday, April 30

Health care, managed care, and reform

- In-class viewing: *Frontline* on managed care (2nd half)
- Continue reading Abraham, Mama

Wednesday, May 2

L: Health care reform in perspective

- Finish Abraham, Mama

Friday, May 4

L: Course conclusion: What is fundamental to American biomedicine?

- From T&W, Ch. 15: Fadiman

Everyone meets during regular class time

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 9 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.: FINAL EXAM (LOCATION TBA)